(b)whether Government have formulated any policy for establishing accident trauma centres with a view to provide timely succor to survivors of accidents on NHs;

(c)if so, the details thereof;

(d)if not, the reasons therefor;

(e)the details of trauma centres established since 1985-86 in proximity to NHs indicating the places and details of trained manpower posted in each, year-wise; and

(f) the future plans thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Detection of road accidents on National Highways and to provide medical assistance to road accident victims is basically the responsibility of the State Government. This Ministry has been providing ambulances to States/UTs/NGOs to evacuate accident victims to the nearest medical centre under National Highways Accident Relief Service Scheme. During the period from 2000-01 to 2006-07,337 ambulances had been given to various States/NGOs under this scheme. In addition, National Highways Authority of India provides an ambulance at an average interval of SO kms. under their Operation and Maintenance Contracts/Build Operate Transfer agreements on the completed stretches of National Highways entrusted to them. 96 ambulances have been deployed on National Highways by National Highways Authority of India. In strategic locations of few stretches, cameras were installed by National Highways Authority of India which facilitates quick detection of road accidents.

(b) to (e) During the IX & Xth Five Year Plan periods, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare were operating a scheme under which financial assistance of upto Rs. 1.50 crores was being provided to the State Government Hospitals located on National Highways for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities. Under this scheme, 113 State Government Hospitals were provided financial assistance during DC and Xth Five Year Plan.

(f) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have now formulated a scheme to be implemented during the Xlth Five Year Plan under which an integrated Trauma Care Centres Network is proposed to be got established in the State Government Hospital/Medical College located along the Golden Quadrilateral, North-South and East-West Corridors of the National Highways by providing financial assistance.

Road accidents on NHs

506. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a)the number of road accidents that occurred on National Highways (NHs) since 1996-97, year-wise;

(b)whether any assessment of the NHs have been conducted for ascertaining vulnerability of users to accidents and identifying the accident prone stretches;

(c)if so, the salient findings thereof;

(d)if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e)the number of officials who visited foreign countries to acquire advanced knowledge about measures for prevention of accidents on NHs in the last five years indicating the countries

visited, duration of visit of each delegation, the number of technical and non-technical officials in each delegation, their designations and cost to the exchequer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) As per the report by the States/UTs. the number of road accidents on National Highways since the year 1996 to 2005 (the latest available data) are as under:—

Year	Road Accidents
1996	89046(P)
1997	94014(P)
1998	98690(P)
1999	103839
2000	110508
2001	115824
2002	131738
2003	127834
2004	130265
2005	129994

P=Provisional.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. A research project R-64 entitled "Establishment of System for Identification and Rectification of Accident Black Spots" was undertaken by this Ministry in the year 1995. 18 selected sections of 100m each on 15NHs were considered in the study.

Based on accident analysis, the following conclusions have been drawn with regards to road accidents, their causes, occurrences, causalities and vehicle improvement.

(i) Maximum number of accidents, especially fatal accidents are found to occur on straight stretches due to high speed.

(ii) Four arm junctions were found to be most vulnerable mainly due to insufficient site distance, lack of traffic guidance, absence of road markings and poor road geometries.

(iii) Head on collisions are found to be maximum due to high speed and bad overtaking practice.

(iv) Pedestrians are most vulnerable victims due to insufficient pedestrian facilities and poor knowledge of about traffic rules. Pedestrians are ranked second in making errors and one of the main causes of accidents.

(v) Driver error is found to be main causes by many accidents.

(vi) Maximum number of causalities are observed by car, followed by pedestrians and then by heavy goods vehicles.

(vii) During night time trucks are involved in maximum numbers of accidents.

(viii) The share of negligence and over-speeding in accidents is found to be as high as 90%.

The breakup of causes of road accidents for road stretches is as under:

(i) Road User Behaviour	-	78%
(ii) Vehicle Defect	-	11%
(iii) Poor Road Geometries	-	7%
(iv) Poor visibility	-	4%

The break up of factors for accidents at intersections is as under:

(i) III Designed Layout of Intersection	-	20%
(ii) Road User Behaviour	-	31%
(iii) Absence/inadequacy of Advance Traffic Guidance Devices	-	35%
(iv) Insufficient Visibility	-	11%
(v) Absence of Street Lights	-	3%

During preparation of detailed Project Report by Consultant, emphasis is always given to ascertain vulnerability of users to accidents. Accordingly, necessary provisions such as service road, flyovers, under passes (vehicular/pedestrian)/guard rails, crash barriers and warning signages are made part of the project.

(d)Not applicable.

(e)No officials had visited foreign countries to acquire advanced knowledge about measures for prevention of accidents on NHs in the last five years.

Institutions for studying NH

507. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a)the details of institutions established for studying and conducting training pertaining to planning, construction, operation and maintenance of National Highways (NHs);

(b)whether Government are contemplating to establish more such institutions;

(c)if so, the details thereof, indicating places/locations identified for the same, the proposed time frame and estimated cost to the exchequer; and

(d)the details of the parameters followed, if any, in selection of places and locations for setting up such institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) There is only one Institution namely, the National Institute for Training of Highway Engineers (NITHE) that has been established by this Ministry for studying and conducting training of the Highway Engineers pertaining to planning construction, operation and maintenance of roads including National Highways.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.